



Ethical Views

October 2003 Vol. 118, No. 2 Newsletter of the Philadelphia Ethical Society

Sunday, October 5

Platform: Richard Kiniry, Leader,
Philadelphia Ethical Society

Handing Down Bigotry

From the Pope and George Bush to the average person, adults transmit their bigotry to future generations. We must tear away the veil of legitimacy that hides so much prejudice and discrimination.

Sunday, October 12

Platform: Stacey Stovall,
Executive Director,
Center for Lesbian and Gay Rights

Civil Marriage and the LGBT Family

The program will cover topics related to marriage and family law issues for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, including the difference between civil and religious marriages; civil marriage is a civil right; protecting our families; and three ways to get involved.

The Center advocates equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Pennsylvanians through legal services, education and policy reform.

Sunday, October 19

Platform: Richard Kiniry, Leader,
Philadelphia Ethical Society

The Wisdom of Slackers

Many young people are dropping out of conventional living. Do they have something to tell those of us who are still on the treadmill?

Sunday, October 26

Platform: Norma van Dyke,
United Nations Association,
Greater Philadelphia Chapter
Why America Needs the U.N.

The platform marks the celebration of United Nation's Day, established by presidential proclamation in 1945. The worldwide celebration is part of U.N. week, October 20 - 26.

Leader's Message

After the Grief II

by Richard Kiniry

The terrible events of September 11, 2001 are two years old. Back then I hoped that the shock would produce soul-searching in everyone, but the events of that day have been written into history too quickly. We have had memorials, investigations, and tributes but I still have the feeling that we have not done enough. Something is undone. We have moved on without fully understanding the meaning of that day; maybe we never will. Yes, there have been much greater disasters, hundreds of thousands of people massacred, but not us. The visually monumental aspect of the attack on an icon within an icon - the signature buildings of the New York skyline within the icon of New York itself, the center of American wealth, power, and style - heightened the significance of September 11th. But what does it mean?

In part, the spectacle of it overshadowed the people. September 11th became a public event that was actually thousands of personal stories. The dead became candle-lit pictures on television. They were characters in a >

sentimental melodrama as if they became real only because of how and where they died. But they were people like us. Many of them were foreigners, but they weren't foreigners in a far-away culture. They were us, or could have been, and they must have died in the most horrible of ways.

Following the attacks and the deaths, we had much weeping and flag-waving. We also had political recrimination and hype from many directions. In other words, the dead and their families didn't own their own deaths. They became part of a national event that other people defined and manipulated.

I made my political points about September 11th two years ago and wouldn't mind repeating them since they are still relevant, but I want to stress the personal loss - the loss to all of us. We were invited into the mourning of those closest to the dead but it was television grief. The media tell us how to think and how to feel. It would have been better if we had some distance from the grief of those personally involved but felt more immediately that those people stood for us. We were not the mourners but the dead. The terrorists attacked and killed us — not actually me, not you, not my family or friends, but me and you as a type of person. It is one thing to know that others have negative political opinions about your country's presence in the world and another to realize that to the world, the United States of America is you and me.

During the Second World War, both sides decided that civilian populations were fair targets. Since then, much >

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Platforms at 11:00 AM

Coffee Hour & Discussion
follow the Platforms.

Musical Interludes performed by
Pianist Tim Ribchester.

Childcare provided at no charge.

All are Welcome!

After the Grief

of the world has had to live with that reality. Now it is our turn to face reality. There are no innocent bystanders. There are those who feel the suffering and those who cause the suffering. Our warriors, who have done so much to create this reality, will try to protect us from reality, but they do us no favor. We are no longer the New World protected by two oceans. We have to face the type of people we are in the eyes of the world. Even a good percentage of our own people understood on September 11th why someone would perpetrate such an attack on our type of people.

The message of September 11th must remain open. Those people who died so horribly two years ago - who either had to sit in a plane in total fear for a half hour only to die in an instant, or who were burned to death, or who jumped to their death - were many types of people. But that day they were just our type of people. Why should our type of people die like that? ◇



Education Committee Report

New Beginnings

Temma Fishman, Chair

Leader Richard Kiniry opened the platform season with his talk, *Random Acts of Kindness Are Not Enough*. He asked, "Why do we need this place?" and "What are we trying to do here?". So much of the life humans create is fraudulent, nonsensical, and dishonest. The fraudulent part of religion lies in its fundamental purpose to make people feel good — to provide "a cruise package through life." But in Ethical Culture we find hope and confirmation in the universe and our place in it. We reaffirm that goodness can triumph. But at this time, the progress of 100 years is being swept away as millions of people are being exploited.

In Ethical Culture, we don't shut the door on religion, but we do it better, more honestly. Being rationalists, we attend to science and the reality of everyday life. Yet, we retain a sense of the mystery and awe life holds. We believe that meaning and satisfaction can be found by embedding ourselves in the lives of others to make the world a better place. A founding idea of Ethical Culture asserts that good acts are not enough; it is also necessary to go out on a limb for what is right. As Richard said, "The potential for bringing out the best hasn't been this good for generations. The possibility for expressing hope is all around us. Assault the lies... for justice and humanization of purpose".

Dr. Dale Drews, American Ethical Union leader, opened by quoting John Lovejoy Elliott in his talk, *Personal Ethics for Humanists*. Elliott believed that treating a man as he should be would cause him to become as he should be. This social positivism is the only religion that is real and complete, according to Dale. He said, "Practical questions must continue to pre-dominate

over the quest for theory."

The ethics of Humanism isn't just for those in certain occupations — politicians, priests, or undertakers — but for all of humanity. In Ethical Culture, it means opposing the death penalty and war with Iraq, while feeding the hungry — social ethics. We must balance ourselves between the need for individualism and being part of the collective, the objectivity of external reality and our own experience, between positive and negative reinforcement, and the need to be private or to share our thoughts and feelings — all are parts of personal ethics for Humanists.

In closing, Dale quoted Bertrand >

Russell. "...The only thing that will redeem us is cooperation...wishing well to others."

In an auditorium fragrant with pumpkin and leaves, brightened with yellow, rust, and gold chrysanthemums, members and friends of the Philadelphia Ethical Society met Sunday morning, September 21, to celebrate the annual Autumn Equinox Festival. While continuing his Bach and Debussy cycles with Prelude 21 from Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier and Claire de Lune from Debussy's Suite Bergamesque, pianist Tim Ribchester honored the occasion by playing Kurt Weill's September Song and the jazz classic, Autumn Leaves. Not only was the floor (purposely) littered with some real autumn leaves from Leader Richard Kiniry's back garden; sprinkled on a table in the center of the auditorium were paper leaves in autumn colors, some imprinted with questions sparked by September's theme of new beginnings, others blank. After his opening rumination on beginning anew, Richard invited everyone to take a leaf and either come up with an answer to the question it posed or fill in a blank leaf with his or her own thoughts on new beginnings. Then, while everyone considered their response, Saul Machles offered an Earth Prayer from the United Nations' Environmental Sabbath Program and other members read poems: Donald Hall's September Ode (Judith Will) and an excerpt from his Kicking the Leaves >

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Education Committee Report

New Beginnings

(Bob Moore), Jane Kenyon's *Coming Home at Twilight in Late Summer* (Ellen Rose), Ann Schwerringer's *Autumn Days* (Kate Esposito), Carl Sandburg's *Poplar and Elm* (John Hall), Sondra Hall's *Buttonwood Leaves* (Irene Putzer), and Robert Frost's cautionary *Nothing Gold Can Stay* (Lyle Murley)

Inspired by the poets and inspired by singing Jerome Kern's and Dorothy Fields's *Pick Yourself Up*, some brave souls brought their leaves and the thoughts they inspired to the podium. Sylvia Bornkoff Polizzi's leaf asked "What event in your life was a new beginning and why?" She answered that on June 19, 2003, she turned 80 and celebrated a renewed love of life, with the companionship and intellectual stimulation of her husband Gian Polizzi. Bob Moore's blank leaf gave him an opportunity to recall that Donald Hall was not only a poet whose work we celebrated on this occasion but someone who had been a teacher of Bob's in the 1960s at the University of Michigan, a time of new beginnings for him. Kate Esposito's leaf asked "Who would you bring, if you could bring three people to your new beginning, and why?" Kate's first two choices seemed obvious: her new boyfriend, who bakes great bread; and her masseuse, who is also a poet. But a collective gasp greeted her third nominee, George W. Bush. Why would she invite him? "Because he needs containing — and I figure my boyfriend and my masseuse/poet could do the job pretty effectively." Laughter and applause ensued. Ken Greiff's leaf asked a similar question, "What three things would you bring with you to your new beginning?" >

His choices: a bicycle, dental floss J, and his new computer. Carol Love's blank leaf prompted the memory that getting fired from a teaching job she never very much wanted prompted her into medical school and the profession she had always aspired to. Arnold Fishman told a similar story: after high school, when he weighed only 119 pounds (our Arnold?), his father got him a job in a meat-packing plant, where the heavy lifting was enough to spur him out of the plant and on to college and law school.

Maria Markovich, a young sculptor, said that every time she starts a new piece, it's a new beginning — fraught with danger, excitement, and possibility. Saul Machles, PES membership chair, noted that many older members of Ethical Culture Societies stay sharp longer than do their peers in the population at large (a not so subtle plug for those teetering on the fence to consider joining the Philadelphia Ethical Society). One new member — of a certain age — corroborated his observation by saying that, after eight weeks' enforced convalescence after a heart attack and complications, discovering the Ethical Society offered her a new lease on life and a sense, finally, of having found home. Before offering as "closing words" Maya Angelou's poem *Late October*, Bertha Waters said she was seeking a new beginning for the world that would entail ending violence, alleviating hunger and disease, and spending more on education. ◇

Sunday Morning Volunteers

Coffee Hour Hosts

Harry Thorn, Chair

October 5	Saul Machles
October 12	Roberta Wood
October 19	Harry Thorn
October 26	Lyle and Terry Murley

Ushers

Rick Zorger, Head Usher, with help from Richard Kiniry, Saul Machles & Arnold Fishman

Flower Dedications

Ken Greiff, Chair

October 5	In Celebration of Alaina Rivera's third birthday from Jill Rivera.
October 12	From Mick Sanders in continuing celebration of his marriage to Molly Sayvetz on October 7, 2001.
October 19	From Maria Markovich in memory of her mother Jean Markovich
October 26	From Madeleine Suringer in honor of United Nations Day (October 24).

Greeters






Saul Machles, Chair

October 5	Joe Monte
October 12	Madeleine Suringar
October 19	Saul Machles
October 26	Harry Thorn

Coffee Hour Lunch

October 5	Doris Leicher and Howard Peer
October 12	Jean Bradley
October 19	Jesse Zelnick
October 26	Ken Greiff

October at the Philadelphia Ethical Society - Celebrate Children

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
 Birthdays		Eli Shneyer on the 1 ST > 	1 Class 7:30 PM Defining the Good Life	2	3	4
5 11 AM Platform <i>Handing Down Bigotry</i>	6	7 Cherin Silver on the 8 TH > 	8 Meetings 6:30 PM Ethical Action Committee 7:30 PM Education Committee	9	10 Social 7:00 PM Supper with Soul and Slides	11
12 11 AM Platform <i>Civil Marriage and the LGBT Family</i>	13 Class 7:30 PM Intro to Ethical Humanism	14 Doris Leicher 	15 Forum 12 PM Why You're a Feminist Meeting 7:30 PM Board of Trustees	16 Class 7:30 PM The History of Ethics	17 Forum 7:30 PM On the Ground Observations from Israel & Palestine	18
19 11 AM Platform <i>The Wisdom of Slackers</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 11 AM Platform <i>Why America Needs the U.N.</i> Meeting 3:00 PM Camp Linden Board at	27	28 Class 7:30 PM Economic Justice	29 Gladys Huber 	30	31	

Supper with Soul and Slides

A Camp Linden Evening
 Friday, October 10 at 7 PM

Join us for black eyed peas, cornbread, mashed potatoes, collard greens, Southern fried chicken, tofu or fish!

Sigh up with the Community Committee & bring your favorite dish. You'll take home a Camp Linden souvenir & memories of an exciting slide show about our summer program for inner - city kids.

\$10, \$5 if you bring something to share.

14th Annual AEU

Society Growth and Development Conference ***Stronger Societies for a Stronger Ethical Movement***

October 24-25, 2003

at the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island.

for more details contact:

Hank Gassner at kargas@earthlink.net

AEU office 212-873-6500

or office@aeu.org

Ethical Forum Series Fall and Winter 2004

Lunch and Learn Series: *Why You're a Feminist (But May Not Know It)*

Wednesday, October 15 from 12 noon to 1:30 PM

Karen Bojar, who teaches English and women's studies at Community College of Philadelphia, will continue the series with a presentation on how to turn students who have received a feminist education into social activists.

Wednesday, November 12 from 12 noon to 1:30 PM

We will then profile a feminist non-profit agency, the *Community Women's Education Project* in Port Richmond.

Wednesday, December 17 from 12 noon to 1:30 PM

A discussion by Kathy Black, president of the *Coalition of Labor Union Women*, of pay-equity and other economic issues.

On the Ground Observations from Israel and Palestine

Friday, October 17, beginning at 7:30 PM

Lawrence Davidson, professor of Middle East history at West Chester University, and his wife, Janet Amighi, Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at Drexel University will present a slide show and talk on the Israeli-Palestinian situation based on several recent trips to Israel and the Occupied Territories. The most recent trip was in conjunction with a three week Faculty for Israeli Palestinian Peace (www.ffipp.org) tour. During this time they met with many leaders and ordinary people on both sides of the Green Line, including Yasir Arafat and Hannah Ashwari, Gen. Ben Eliazar, retired Mossad officers and refuseniks. The Davidson's welcome dialogue and are not afraid to be challenged.

The Hunger Project

November 7 beginning at 7:30 PM. Facilitated by Jim Goodman, Regional Director of US Funding.

The Hunger Project is a strategic organization and global movement committed to the sustainable end of world hunger. In Africa, Asia and Latin America, they empower local people to create lasting society-wide progress in health, education, nutrition and family incomes. They apply a two-prong strategy: mobilizing grassroots self-reliant action and local leadership. Their highest priority is the empowerment of women. Women bear primary responsibility for family health, education and nutrition — yet, by tradition, culture and law they are denied the means, information and freedom to fulfill their responsibility. The Hunger Project is committed to transforming this condition. Visit < thp.org > for more information.

Wine and cheese receptions will follow the evening forums. Free and open to the public.

School for Ethics

Introduction To Ethical Humanism

The Philadelphia Ethical Society is part of a 127 year old humanist religious tradition. This is a chance to delve into that history and tradition. Interested visitors, newcomers and members are invited to examine the basic ideas of Ethical Culture. Do they make sense and can they make your life better? Using the Eight Commitments of Ethical Culture we will look at our core ideas - the intrinsic worth of every human being, naturalism, nontheism, and ethics as a way of life.

Monday, October 13 at 7:30 PM & Sunday, December 7 at 1:30 PM

Defining the Good Life

This is an opportunity to examine your values as you confront real situations in the news or in your personal life. Each session will have a predetermined article or situation to examine.

First Wednesday of the month, starts October 1 at 7:30 PM

Social Analysis: Economic Justice

This ongoing discussion group has been examining historic economic theories. We started this season by looking at the reality of our present economic system, but we will continue keeping an eye open for explanations of poverty and economic inequality. Tuesdays, October 28, November 25, December 23, January 27, February 24 at 7:30 PM.

The History of Ethics

We will start the new season by looking at the Utilitarianism of John Stuart Mill. Following we will discuss Peter Singer's book, Practical Ethics and Daniel Dennett's Freedom Evolves.

Thursdays, October 16, November 20, December 18, January 15, February 19 at 7:30 PM

President's Message

A Tale of Two Lies

by Arnold Fishman

The sentiments expressed in this message are those of Arnold Fishman and do not represent the official position of the Philadelphia Ethical Society

“When Clinton lied, no one died” will have to be the slogan of the Democrats in the next presidential campaign. Clinton lied about a purely private matter, but he did so under oath. Shame on him, but also shame on the court which gave him the Hobson’s choice of revealing his sexual proclivities as a sitting President or crossing his fingers and lying — yes, even under oath. He did it so artfully that “it all depends on what is, is” was a technically relevant answer to the question he was asked. There is no doubt, however, that he meant to mislead. Actually, he would have succeeded had Monica been more fastidious about her clothing.

I am satisfied that the Bush Administration knowingly massaged the facts to support its assertion that a war with Iraq was in our national interest. Or as Al Gore put it on August 7, 2003: President Bush made “a systematic effort to manipulate facts in service to a totalistic ideology that is felt to be more important than the mandates of basic honesty.”

Although Bush did not lie under oath; he lied during the President’s State of the Union Message, which is unique, in that it is required by The Constitution of the United States. It is delivered to both houses of Congress and attended by the Supreme Court, the President’s Cabinet, the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Military, and assorted dignitaries both domestic and foreign. Even more important, it is delivered in front of live television during prime time. The speech is carried by all the networks to the homes of people around the world, and it is watched and listened to by >

billions. It creates reality, and the politicians know it

Furthermore, this lie was not about the president’s private life. It was about the most public of subjects - one nation attacking another. Lives would be lost and fortunes won on both sides. On the subject of war, the citizen is reasonably entitled to an expectation that the President will be truthful. But Bush deliberately exaggerated the threat in order to win support for the execution of a newly-espoused policy which included aggression to topple hostile governments. The decision had already been made; our troops were at the ready. Congress, the only branch of government constitutionally authorized to declare war, abdicated its responsibility and wrote the president a blank check. The United Nations was bullied into submission and other nations were squeezed dry for their support. Now it was time to create a reason in an effort enlist the public. Polls showed that America would favor going to war if Iraq constituted an imminent threat. So, in his State of the Union address, President Bush told them it did.

Clinton was ordered to pay a sanction to the court and attorney’s fees to the plaintiff for his conduct. What is the appropriate penalty for Bush?

The next time some President starts to beat the war drum, I hope that we as a nation hold him to a much higher standard of proof than was done this time. Maybe, just maybe, if George II is held accountable by the citizens of this country, at the polls where it counts, the next emperor-in-waiting interested in starting a fight will think better of it. Humanists of all stripes, religious and secular, must decry this primitive, knee-jerk, reaction. We are obliged to offer a reasoned, civilized choice that promises peace with justice, so that the mongers of hatred are isolated and unable to recruit, not only armies, but the next airplane hijacker or suicide bomber as well. ◇

Ethical Action Committee Report

VOLUNTEERISM

Cherin Silver, Chair

The Ethical Society was fortunate over the last year to have a significant increase in membership and we welcome those new members as well as returning members.

Many of our members may not realize that their experience of the Ethical Society is created in large part by the activities of volunteers. We have two part-time paid people, Richard Kiniry and Jean Bradley and neither Richard nor Jean is paid for all of their work on our behalf. But for the most part, our experience here is the result of volunteer activity. For our new members who were warmly welcomed, the work of Saul Machles and Jean Bradley made an enormous difference. The lunches following the platforms give us an informal opportunity to talk with each other before the post-Platform discussion. Last year those lunches were prepared for us primarily by Howard Peer and Doris Leicher, Jean Bradley, Ruth Ann Dubb, Jessie Zelnick, and Betsy Lightbourne with the help of a few others. This year, Ken Greiff has agreed to take Ruth Ann's place in the lineup. The platforms themselves (other than Richard's) are arranged and scheduled by Temma Fishman and her education committee, whose members are Bertha Waters, Betsy Lightbourne, Harry Thorn, Lyle and Terry Murley and Nick Sanders. This is an enormous amount of work and they deserve our thanks. The coffee and tea would not be there every Sunday if it were not for Harry Thorn recruiting members on a rotating basis to come in early, prepare the coffee and tea and set it out, and stay a little late to clean up the coffee and tea service. Ken Greiff solicits flower donations from our members. Members of the Community Committee, includ- >

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Ethical Action Committee Report

Volunteerism

ing chair Carol Love and secretary Irene Putzer, make all of our parties, including Thanksgiving, possible.

Carol comes to the Ethical Society in the wee hours of the morning to roast the Thanksgiving turkey, catching cat naps when she can. And that turkey disappears in a flash when we sit down to eat. The newsletter for many years has been Jean Bradley's effort, with many of us contributing columns. Bob Moore also finally got our website up and running and is currently our webmaster. Jill Rivera has been working most Fridays for years, organizing our archives with plans for preservation. Ellen Rose is chairing a strategic planning committee that will involve substantial work for her and committee members Temma Fishman, Bob Moore, Jill Rivera, and Nick Sanders (Richard Kiniry and Society President Arnold Fishman serve ex officio).

And what about our outreach efforts? The most important and significant is by far and away Camp Linden. Over 200 children each summer are given what for many may be their first experience outside an urban environment at our beautiful site on the Brandywine, and they eat organic vegetables grown by our own members. This would not be possible without the extraordinary volunteer efforts of Jean Bradley (the small stipend we have paid her the last two years I am sure does not even cover her car expenses), Chuck Hinson, Saul Machles, Carol Love, Marv Friedman, and others. And our other outreach efforts? There is a handful of us who cook for the Men's Shelter at Trinity Memorial Church on 22nd and Spruce Streets; Temma Fishman and Lew Wilkinson distribute dictionaries at the Robert Morris School; some of us arrange forums >

(Ellen Rose, Temma Fishman, Michael Schad, and Ken Greiff, just to name a few); some of us organize protests (particularly Mike Schad).

So, look around you and when you are feeling glad to be here, know that a lot of volunteer effort makes it that way. If you are proud to be part of an organization that manages to make Camp Linden a reality, that provides food for a Men's Shelter, that gives third graders their own dictionaries at the Robert Morris School every year, know that an enormous volunteer effort makes all of this possible.

Yes, checks are good. More and bigger checks are even better, and believe me, we need the money. We are not a wealthy organization. I remember sometime ago hearing a woman bitterly complain because we ask for a donation for the lunch following the Platform. That money defrays the cost of a lunch that was prepared by a volunteer and any excess is applied to our outreach activities. But the point that became clear to me was that she thought the Ethical Society was a wealthy organization and that the Ethical Society should be providing lunch. This was not a poor woman. Yes, we have a fabulous building. But no, we are not a wealthy organization and we manage to do a lot with a little. To make that happen, in addition to checks, we need your time and your help to make this organization what it can be.

Your help is desperately needed to raise a new cabin at Camp Linden. If you cannot haul lumber, and very few of us can, do not think your hands would not be helpful in some way. Please call Jean Bradley for scheduling regarding this effort and the possibility of sharing rides. There is something almost every one of us can do to help with Camp Linden.

Allergic to trees? The Men's Shelter >

always needs more cooks and servers. Not being able to cook is no handicap. Either volunteer to serve or try one of our foolproof recipes. Please call Cherin Silver to help with the Men's Shelter.

Like working with children? How about volunteering to tutor one morning a week at the Robert Morris School? The children at Robert Morris School will be fortunate this year to have Ellen Rose tutoring two mornings a week. Please call Temma Fishman to discuss tutoring.

None of the above interests you? How about coming to the Ethical Action Committee meetings and telling us how you would like to get our members involved in your favorite volunteer activity? The Ethical Action Committee meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Ethical Society at 6:30 p.m.; all are welcome, members and non-members. Or ask the Community Committee (Carol Love) or the Education Committee (Temma Fishman) or the Membership Growth Committee (Saul Machles) what you can do to help.

We are a community of volunteers. It is what makes us who we are. Please be one of us. ◇

Ethical Views is published monthly
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Layout & Distribution, Jean Bradley

Philadelphia Ethical Society

Richard Kiniry, Leader

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Board of Trustees Update

A Summer Retreat

Jean Bradley

The retreat, facilitated by Richard, began with a brain-storming session with the goal of establishing target groups for membership growth. The list included young people, parents and their children, gays and lesbians, African Americans, the rich, the poor, and singles.

The EAC, Education, and Community Committees were to commit some of their energy and resources to attracting these groups, for example, by organizing parenting workshops. A new Committee was suggested to "create a desire for Sunday School in parents and the Society." Nick Sanders was suggested as Chair. Though no committee meeting has been scheduled, Nick will be attending the annual AEU Religious Education Conference.

Another growth idea was to hire a consultant who could suggest the most effective way to advertise and also how to find and attract families who have moved to the neighborhood to our platforms. Our new webmaster Bob Moore had requested that the Society establish a Website Committee. Secretary Howard Peer now serves as Chair during these strictly online meetings.

It was also felt that we needed a Finance Committee. This committee, to be chaired by the Treasurer, is noted in our bylaws. At the first meeting, Treasurer Jeff Dubb, Jean Bradley, and Saul Machles outlined the Committee's responsibilities, which include the building, investments, the budget, and pledges. The group felt that mammoth projects like handicapped accessibility should be dealt with at the Board level or by the newly created Strategic Growth Committee. We also rejected the notion of organizing fund-raising events like parties or the Service Auction, feeling that the skills required for doing so would be more likely found in the Community Committee or on the Board.

Richard raised the possibility of (re)creating a Long Range Planning Committee. The Board concurred, but renamed the group Strategic Planning. This group, chaired by Ellen Rose, is charged with "coming up with a Growth Plan (2 and 5 years), that structures the organizational goals, changes, and methods that will facilitate Society growth both in membership and quality of program. We desire growth for two reason. First, we think Ethical Humanism is a good idea that more people can use in their lives. Second, with more members we will be able to offer more services and fulfill our financial and organizational responsibilities. The Task Group will have access to all committees and functions of the Society, and may question all the traditional policies, organization and financed of the Society. We would hope the Plan could be ready by June 04 with an interim report in January 04. The Group should have an ongoing consultative relationship with the Executive Committee." ◇